

I passed the CW or Morse code test (Element 1) many years ago. CW, this so-called antiquated means of communication, allows communications in emergencies when conditions are poor and also allows hams to communicate long distances during difficult conditions. The examination is not difficult at only five words per minute and well within the capability of anyone, including the handicapped when permitted accommodations are used. Persons who lack the initiative to learn CW are unlikely to have the initiative to operate in accordance with good engineering and good amateur practice. Competency of the International Morris Code is required to be able to confirm the call sign on all amateur repeater systems since the code is used to identify the repeater, also as long as CW is an authorized emission, there should be a requirement for Element 1 to continue as a valid test requirement for the HF bands.

I believe that this requirement should be retained and I urge you to do so.

I might add that after an extensive evaluation of the class of licensee responding to this request is largely (90%+) Technician in class, also many have Vanity Call signs. If they truly want additional Spectrum then they need to put forward some kind of additional work to earn additional privileges which has been the standard in the Amateur Service. Let's not change a working system that is not broken and not in need of a fix!!!

Please remember if it is not broken please do not try and break it by trying to fix it!!

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